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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/624,552	HIGUCHI, MITSUO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Harry A. Grosso	3727	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed March 23, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

The rejection of claim 4 under U.S.C. 112, second paragraph has been overcome by the amendment filed March 23, 2006. The rejection is withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Juan Carlos Marquez on June 7, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0025, line 12: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0025, line 13: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0025, line 14: "smaller diameter" has been changed to - - smaller radius - -.

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0025, line 14: "outer diameter" has been changed to - - outer radius - -.

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0025, line 15: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0025, line 16: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

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In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0025, line 17: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0026, line 1: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0026, line 2: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 10, paragraph 0026, line 3: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 11, paragraph 0028, line 1: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 11, paragraph 0028, line 2: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 11, paragraph 0029, line 1: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 11, paragraph 0029, line 3: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 11, paragraph 0029, line 4: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 11, paragraph 0029, line 7: " same diameter" has been changed to - - same radius - -.

In the original specification, page 11, paragraph 0029, line 7: "outer diameter" has been changed to - - outer radius - -.

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In the original specification, page 21, in the last line: "diameter" has been changed to

- - radius - -.

In the original specification, page 22, line 1: "diameter" has been changed to - -radius- -.

In the original specification, page 22, line 2: "diameter" has been changed to - -radius- -.

In the original specification, page 22, line 3: "diameter" has been changed to - -radius- -.

In the paragraph added to page 12 of the specification by the amendment filed March

23, 2006, in line 1: "a upper" has been changed to - - an upper - -.

In the paragraph added to page 12 of the specification by the amendment filed March

23, 2006, in line 4: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the paragraph added to page 12 of the specification by the amendment filed March

23, 2006, in line 7: "diameter" has been changed to - - radius - -.

In the paragraph added to page 12 of the specification by the amendment filed March

23, 2006, in line 8: "diameters" has been changed to - - radii - -.

Claim 1, line 10: "provide a bent and" has been deleted.

Claim 1, line 13: "the bent and" has been deleted.

Claim 1, line 14: "a upper" has been changed to - - an upper - -.

Claim 2, line 3: "comprises" has been changed to - - comprising - -.

Claim 2, line 11: "provide a bent and" has been deleted.

Claim 2, line 14: "the bent and" has been deleted.

Claim 2, line 15: "a upper" has been changed to - - an upper - -.

Claim 3, line 12: "provide a bent and" has been deleted.

Claim 3, line 15: "the bent and," has been deleted.

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Claim 3, line 17: "a upper" has been changed to - - an upper - -.

Claim 4, line 3: "comprises" has been changed to - - comprising - -.

Claim 4, line 12: "provide a bent and" has been deleted.

Claim 4, line 15: "the bent," has been deleted.

Claim 4, line 17: "a upper" has been changed to - - an upper - -.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harry A. Grosso whose telephone number is 571-272-4539. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7am to 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse can be reached on 571-272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Nathan Newhouse
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3727

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